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of which (Vol. V), containing monocotyledons and gymnosperms, appeared in 1895, and was noticed briefly in the *GAZETTE* (20: 278. 1895). The long delay in the appearance of a second part was due to various reasons, but has had its advantages in permitting the authors to include the results of the recent extraordinary activity in the study of the African flora. As the present volume has been in process of publication since 1895, the authors have wisely indicated the date of publication of the different parts of the volume, extending from October 1895 to April 1898. The work is not descriptive, but is simply a catalogue of described species, with bibliographical citations, synonymy, distribution, and occasional critical notes. The work will be complete in six volumes of about 500 pages each.—J. M. C.

A new botanical text.

A RECENT French work,⁴ which is a valuable contribution to botanical texts, is that of Professor L. Courchet, of the School of Pharmacy at Montpellier. The author purposes only to write a treatise for the use of students in the professional schools of France, which seem to demand mainly work with spermatophytes. The first part is devoted to the general morphology (in the old sense) of spermatophytes, and a second much larger part to a systematic description of the natural families. The most striking feature is the unusual space given to the dicotyledons, a proportionate space unequaled in any English text we have seen. Thallophytes are given 130 pages of amply illustrated text, to bryophytes are allotted 12, pteridophytes are presented in 44 pages, while spermatophytes occupy 1540 pages, 1356 of which are devoted to the dicotyledons. Such a distribution of space in a general text must make the plant kingdom seem like a huge mushroom to the observing student. The text throughout is accompanied by good illustrations, and the keys and summaries which accompany each family are worked out with great completeness.—J. G. COULTER.

The study of lichens.

THIS group has few special students in America, and certainly receives but little attention from amateurs. As lichens are found almost everywhere, they would speedily attract collectors and students if some suitable book were provided as an introduction. Such a book Dr. Schneider⁵ has prepared, stating that it "is especially written and arranged for the use of amateurs in the study of lichens." Just how useful it will prove remains to be seen, but we wish it all the success that its purpose deserves. The author's general

⁴ COURCHET, L.—*Traite de Botanique*. 2 vols. 8 vo. pp. viii + 1320. *figs.* 514. Paris: J. B. Bailliere et fils. 1897. *fr.* 12.

⁵ SCHNEIDER, ALBERT.—*A guide to the study of lichens*. Small 8vo. pp. xii + 234, *pl.* 11. Boston: Bradlee Whidden. 1898.